

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing and Status of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): An isolated protein having a functional activity selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic activity, an antigen-binding activity, a protein-protein interaction activity, a DNA binding activity, a hormone activity, a receptor activity, a growth factor activity, and any combinations thereof, comprising at least one di-tyrosine cross-link, wherein at least one tyrosine of a di-tyrosine cross-link originates from a point mutation to tyrosine, and wherein the di-tyrosine cross-linked protein retains at least one ~~function~~ functional activity displayed by the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 10, further comprising at least one amino acid which originates from a point mutation from tyrosine such that the amino acid is not cross-linked under cross-linking conditions.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 10, wherein the ~~function retained~~ comprises catalytic activity or binding specificity protein has enhanced stability compared to the same protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 10, wherein the protein is an enzyme, an antibody, a hormone, a growth factor, a receptor, or a fragment thereof of a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme or an antibody.

Claims 14-17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended): A method for making a stabilized protein, wherein the protein has a functional activity selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic activity, an antigen-binding activity, a protein-protein interaction activity, a DNA binding activity, a hormone activity, a receptor activity, a growth factor activity, and any combinations thereof, comprising:

- (a) selecting one or more residue pairs in a polypeptide chain or chains for di-tyrosine cross-linking,
- (b) mutating at least one of the selected residues to tyrosine; and
- (c) cross-linking the residue pairs in the presence of an oxidant;

wherein the di-tyrosine cross-linked protein retains at least one ~~function~~ functional activity displayed by the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking, and

wherein at least one tyrosine of a di-tyrosine cross-link originates from a point mutation to tyrosine.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the di-tyrosine cross-link reaction occurs in the presence of one or more oxidants selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, oxone, magnesium monoperoxyphthalic acid hexahydrate (MMPP), a photogenerated oxidant, ammonium persulfate, or any combination thereof.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the di-tyrosine cross-linking is catalyzed by a catalyst selected from the group consisting of polyhistidine, Gly-Gly-His, a metalloporphyrin, a peroxidase or any combination thereof.

Claim 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim ~~10~~ 18, wherein the protein is a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme, ~~or~~ an antibody, or a fragment of a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme or an antibody.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): The protein of any of claims 10-13 or 22, wherein the protein is part of a pharmaceutical composition.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for *in vivo* use in humans.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): The protein of any of claims 10-13, 22 or 27, wherein the protein is part of a kit.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 10, wherein the protein is a chimeric polypeptide comprising a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme, ~~or~~ an antibody, or a fragment of an enzyme, a hormone, a growth factor, a receptor, or an antibody.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising a protein of any of claims 10-13, 22 or 27.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 28, wherein the composition is part of a kit.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended): An isolated stabilized protein having a functional activity selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic activity, an antigen-binding activity, a protein-protein interaction activity, a DNA binding activity, a hormone activity, a receptor activity, a growth factor activity, and any combinations thereof, wherein the protein is obtained from a method comprising:

- (a) selecting one or more residue pairs in a protein for di-tyrosine cross-linking,
- (b) mutating at least one of the selected residues to tyrosine;
- (c) isolating the protein; and
- (d) cross-linking tyrosine residue pairs in the presence of an oxidant;

wherein the di-tyrosine cross-linked protein retains at least one ~~function~~ functional activity displayed by the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking, and

wherein at least one tyrosine of a di-tyrosine cross-link originates from a point mutation to tyrosine.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 30, further comprising at least one amino acid which originates from a point mutation from tyrosine such that the amino acid is not cross-linked under cross-linking conditions.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 18 or 30, wherein the ~~function retained comprises catalytic activity or binding specificity~~ protein has enhanced stability compared to the protein in the absence of di-tyrosine cross-linking.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 30, wherein the protein is an enzyme, a hormone, a growth factor, a receptor, an antibody, or a fragment ~~thereof~~ of an enzyme, a hormone, a growth factor, a receptor, or an antibody.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 30, wherein the di-tyrosine cross-link reaction occurs in the presence of one or more oxidants selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, oxone, magnesium monoperoxyphthalic acid hexahydrate (MMPP), a photogenerated oxidant, ammonium persulfate, or any combination thereof.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The protein of claim 30, wherein the di-tyrosine cross-linking is catalyzed by a catalyst selected from the group consisting of polyhistidine, Gly-Gly-His, a metalloporphyrin, a peroxidase or any combination thereof.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended): The protein of claim 30, wherein the protein is a chimeric polypeptide comprising a hormone, a receptor, a growth factor, an enzyme, ~~or~~ an antibody, or a fragment of an enzyme, a hormone, a growth factor, a receptor, or an antibody.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising a protein of claim 30 or 36.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented): A kit comprising the protein of claim 30 or 36.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented): A kit comprising the composition of claim 37.